

J.C.S. 1907/151

31 January 1958

Pages 819 - 823, incl.

REPORT BY THE JOINT STRATEGIC PLANS COMMITTEE

to the
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

on

BERLIN SITUATION (U)

References: a. J.C.S. 1907/104
b. J.C.S. 1907/137
c. J.C.S. 2124/91
d. J.C.S. 2124/187
e. J.C.S. 2124/188

In consonance with the provisions of
J.C.S. Memorandum of Policy No. 97, the
recommendation in paragraph 9
of J.C.S. 1907/151 will be recorded as
approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff on

7 February 1958

and implemented, provided that no appropriate
request for further consideration thereof
shall have been made prior to that date.

DECLASSIFIED BY:
JCS DECLASSIFICATION BRANCH
DATE 4 April 1979

See Decision on dated 2-7-58

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BERLIN SITUATION (U)

THE PROBLEM

1. To determine* whether USCINCEUR should, be requested to 1
furnish the Joint Chiefs of Staff an additional report on the 2
status of military contingency planning for Berlin. 3

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

2. On 5 November 1957, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, by 4
message** to USCINCEUR, stated: 5

"The Joint Chiefs of Staff are concerned over the re- 6
ports on developments in Berlin emanating from your theater 7
and the continuing capability of the Soviets and/or the 8
East Germans to seal off Berlin sector and interzonal 9
boundaries. They request your estimate of their most proba- 10
ble courses of action and your ability to counter them 11
alone or in conjunction with the French and British." 12
USCINCEUR's reply*** gave a detailed report on the status of 13
contingency planning for Berlin, the most probable Soviet 14
courses of action and the U.S.-allied capabilities to counter. 15

3. On 7 November 1957, the Department of State prepared a 16
study**** on the current Berlin Status and Access problems. 17

4. Pursuant to agreement# by the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 18
18 December 1957: 19

a. The State Department analysis**** was referred to the 20
Joint Intelligence Committee for analysis and evaluation. 21

*Memorandum by the Chief of Staff, U.S.A.F., CSAFM-314-57, 2
dated 16 December 1957 subject: "Berlin Situation (U)"; on
file in Joint Secretariat

**JCS message to USCINCEUR No. 932330 DTG 060010Z November
1957; on file in Joint Secretariat

***USCINCEUR message to JCS No. EC 9-6296, DTG 161642Z
November 1957 (DAIN 71610); on file in Joint Secretariat

****Appendix to SM-817-57
#SM-904-57

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4. The draft message* to USCINCEUR proposed by the Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force, was referred to the Joint Strategic Plans Committee for consideration and action in light of the evaluation referred to in subparagraph 4 a above.

5. The State Department analysis** contains, inter alia, the following conclusions:

"There have been no developments in the Berlin situation which raise any question as to the correctness or adequacy of basic United States policy regarding Berlin. Appropriate plans exist or are being developed to meet all present or imminent problems. The possibilities of planning in detail for all contingencies are limited . . ."

6. On 14 January 1958, the Joint Intelligence Committee advised*** the Joint Strategic Plans Committee that they had received the State Department analysis** and were of the opinion that its intelligence aspects were correctly stated as of 7 November 1957. Furthermore, they concurred in the conclusions contained in the analysis** regarding Soviet intentions.

7. For additional facts, see the Enclosure.

CONCLUSION

8. There is now no military requirement to request USCINCEUR to furnish the Joint Chiefs of Staff an additional report on the status of military contingency planning for Berlin.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. It is recommended that the Joint Chiefs of Staff note the conclusion and take no further action on the proposed message* to USCINCEUR.

10. No recommendation is made as to the distribution of this paper to commanders of unified or specified commands.

*Enclosure to Memorandum by the Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force CSAFM 314-57, dated 16 December 1957; subject: "Berlin Situation (U)" on file in Joint Secretariat

**Appendix to SM-817-57

***JICM-17-58; on file in Joint Secretariat

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FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

1. On 21 January 1954, the President approved NSC 5404/1 "U.S. Policy on Berlin".*

2. On 8 May 1956, the Joint Chiefs of Staff approved** USEUCOM Plan (Berlin) 10-55,*** a unilateral contingency plan for limited use of U.S. forces to determine Soviet intentions and to reopen access to Berlin in case of a blockade or in case western access to Berlin is seriously limited by harassing action.

3. On 8 May 1956, the Joint Chiefs of Staff approved** USEUCOM Plan (Berlin) 12-55,*** a unilateral airlift plan in the event all surface means of access to Berlin are blocked.

4. On 7 November 1957, the Department of State prepared a study**** on the current Berlin Status and Access problems. The study analyzed the following problem areas:

a. A possibility of measures to incorporate the Soviet Sector (East Berlin) into the Soviet Zone under the German Democratic Republic (GDR) regime.

b. Interference with circulation between West and East Berlin.

c. Interference with German traffic between Berlin and the Federal Republic.

d. Interference with allied access to Berlin by road, rail, and air.

Furthermore, the study summarized for each of the above problem areas, (a) the action taken by the Soviets or GDR, (b) the counteraction taken by the Allies, (c) rumors or threats of

*Enclosure to J.C.S. 1907/104
**See Decision On J.C.S. 1907/137
***On file in Joint Secretariat
****Appendix to SM-817-57

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additional Soviet or GDR action, (d) estimates of further developments which might be expected, (e) allied planning to meet problems which might arise, and (f) the conclusions regarding allied planning, reached by the State Department.

5. On 20 December 1957, the Joint Chiefs of Staff submitted their views* to the Secretary of Defense regarding a draft statement of policy on the U.S. Policy Toward Germany (NSC 5727).** They informed him that they were of the opinion that NSC 5727 constitutes a satisfactory statement of U.S. policy to supersede NSC 160/1,*** the Supplement to NSC 160/1**** and NSC 5404/1 (U.S. Policy on Berlin).# The NSC Planning Board, in their preparation of NSC 5727 (U.S. Policy Toward Germany) and their review of NSC 5404/1, recommended no change in the policies set forth in NSC 5404/1.

6. On 16 December 1957, the Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force, in a memorandum### for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recommended that a message### be dispatched to USCINCEUR which would require a full report on the status of unilateral and multilateral military planning regarding contingencies in respect to Berlin, including any major problems connected therewith.

*Enclosure to J.C.S. 2124/188
**Enclosure to J.C.S. 2124/187
***Enclosure to J.C.S. 2124/91
****See Note to Holders of J.C.S. 2124/91, dated 14 September 1956
#Enclosure to J.C.S. 1907/104
##Memorandum by the Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force, CSAFM 314-57, dated 16 December 1957, subject: "Berlin Situation (U)"; on file in Joint Secretariat
###Enclosure to memorandum by the Chief of Staff, U.S.A.F., CSAFM 314-57, dated 16 December 1957, subject: "Berlin Situation (U)"; on file in Joint Secretariat

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Enclosure